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FRIDAY, JANUARY 9, 1885.

The Tariff-Internal Taxes.

We received yesterday, in the Congressional Record, Mr. TUCKER's short speech of Monday last in favor of suspending the rules of the House of Representatives and passing Mr. HICKOCK's bill to abolish the internal-revenue taxes on tobacco, cigars, fruit-brandies, &c. Mr. TUCKER does precisely the same ground which we took yesterday in regard to the effect of doing away with those taxes. He argues that to abolish all internal taxes would be to compel the Government to resort to a discriminating tariff—not to a horizontal increase of the customs-duties upon all articles coming into this country from abroad. Repeal the internal-revenue laws, says Mr. TUCKER, and Congress will be compelled to abandon the prohibitory rates of duties. Why, then, should Mr. WATKINS and his followers oppose that beneficent action? Why do they clamor for taxes up on tobacco and cigars? We mentioned yesterday that Mr. HICKOCK, in his speech on Monday last to do away with the internal taxes upon tobacco, cigars, &c. Why should any southern man wish to provide by law for gangs of revenue spies, informers, and electioneers? Who expect those officials have inflamed the northern mind against the South by atrocious lies and false stories? Who else has done so much to prevent a restoration of kindly feelings between the people of the two sections of our common country? We fear that the whiskey ring is at the bottom of all the opposition to the abolition of the internal-revenue bureau, and that the country will never get rid of that bureau unless by throttling it.

Mr. TUCKER, we repeat, says that to repeal the internal-revenue laws would be to compel Congress to abandon prohibitory rates of duties. Why? Because, as we said yesterday, high duties do not necessarily produce large revenues, but, on the contrary, may, and do in many cases, destroy all revenue. A tariff of 50 per cent. upon an article that will bear only 25 per cent. will not yield any revenue. It cannot. It only exclude the article from this country altogether.

So far as we are concerned, we have for many years been willing to support any sort of tariff that would by its existence free the country from all revenue spies, informers, and electioneers—all official traps whose practice it is to libel the southern people as a means of retaining their offices and perpetuating their hold upon the Federal money-bags—all those mercenary wretches who patrol the mountain fastnesses of the South and drag away from home and friends the poor rustic who have made a few gallons of brandy from their apples—all officials, in a word, whose controlling desire it is to make money out of the misfortunes and ignorance of the rural communities of Virginia, West Virginia, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and other southern States.

Whilst treating this subject, we will quote a short extract from a speech made in the House of Representatives on Monday last by the Hon. J. V. L. FINDLAY, of Maryland, in favor of Mr. HICKOCK's motion. It says no more than we have ourselves said repeatedly on the same points; but we quote it as endorsing what we have said as to whether tobacco ought to be taxed, or treated as the sole luxury of the poor man, and, therefore, one that ought not to be taxed. Mr. FINDLAY said:

"I regard the tobacco tax as a burden, not so much upon the pockets of the rich as upon the necessities of the poor. The vast bulk of it is paid by men who literally earn their bread by the sweat of their brows. The manufacturers of this product, particularly in the form of cigars, are hampered by restrictions which render the conduct of the business by men of small means exceedingly difficult, and to such as are without capital impossible. In this way an ordinary source of livelihood has been closed to hundreds who before the imposition of the tax earned an honest and secure subsistence by engaging in this manufacture."

"The machinery for the collection of the tax has in more than one instance been oppressively set in motion so as to reach the face of the poor and destroy the weak in the interest of the rich and powerful. I am opposed to the tax itself, and the modes by which it is collected, and other things being equal, nothing would induce me to withhold my vote from a proposition for its repeal except an absolute necessity for revenue to meet the expenditures of the Government."

We judge from the "signs of the times" as to General GRANT that the title and rank created for him as the recognition of his services will be restored to him by common consent. General GRANT knows what he wants and is not ashamed to let other persons know. We take it that he wishes to have restored to him his title

and rank as "General." We are confident, too, that the Democratic House of Representatives will be as ready to comply with his wishes in this regard as the Republican Senate.

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We learn from the Louisville Post, Democratic, that Speaker CARLISLE has an opinion; that it is the Covington Commonwealth; and that the organ says:

"The impression is abroad that Speaker Carlisle and Mr. Watkinson, of the Courier-Journal, reflect the views of each other; or, in other words, that what one says is endorsed by the other. The eastern press, especially the New York Sun, has created this impression. It is without foundation. These gentlemen do not often meet, and there is little correspondence by letter between them. They probably differ as widely on some questions of policy as any other two members of the Democratic party."

"This much, which is due to both of these gentlemen, is preliminary to the statement that Mr. Carlisle does not approve of Mr. Watkinson's late attack on Mr. Randall."

"Between Messrs. Carlisle and Randall the most friendly relations prevail. While they do not quite agree in regard to the tariff, they often consult with each other in regard to public affairs. On the day on which Mr. Carlisle left Washington—the 24th instant—they had a prolonged and cordial interview."

This is as it should be. When the Democrats begin to read out of their party such men as Mr. RANDALL that party will be ready to turn over the Government to the Republicans.

The West Point Star says of itself: "It is impossible for a local paper to compete with other papers in the amount of reading matter. People take a local paper because it is a local, and like that local paper best which furnishes the most and best local news, regardless of any other feature. We have therefore come to the conclusion that we will please our patrons and serve ourselves best if we will devote most of our space to local news and bend most of our energies towards its gathering. It shall be our earnest purpose for the future to make the Star better as a local paper."

The whole case in a nutshell. West Virginia boasts the best local papers we ever saw—one of them, not all by any means; and it is because they are full of local items. One we are familiar with has a correspondent in every township in Monongalia county, and gives every week a solid page of local items; not news, perhaps, but all the deaths, marriages, cases of sickness, visitors from elsewhere, what the churches and preachers and all sorts of organizations, &c., &c., are doing. Every Monongalia in the Union ought to and do doubt take the Post and read it. There's money in such a paper in any county of any size."

The St. Louis Globe-Democrat, which is Radical to the backbone, says: "The enemies of Mr. Garland are trying to defeat his appointment as Attorney-General by showing that he isn't a Simon-Pure Democrat, the proof being that he is in favor of the Blair educational bill. There is some reason, it must be confessed, to doubt if a man can be a thoroughly sound Democrat and still favor an increase of school privileges and the expenditure of public money to reduce the general measure of ignorance; but we have hopes that Mr. Cleveland will construe the party faith a little more liberally than that."

and rank as "General." We are confident, too, that the Democratic House of Representatives will be as ready to comply with his wishes in this regard as the Republican Senate.

Mr. Blaine.

A telegram to a western paper says that Mr. BLAINE is ambitious to get back into the Senate; that he intends to continue to be "a constant menace to those Republican leaders who, irrespective of the kicks and cuffs previously received at his hands, stand convicted, in his estimation, of high treason to the Republican party in failing to give his candidacy for the presidential office their active rather than passive support."

This is good news to the Democrats. We have heretofore said that by 1888 Mr. BLAINE will be dead politically, and will not be seriously thought of as a possible candidate for the Republican nomination for President of the United States; in a word, that he will be then just where General HANCOCK was in 1884. Mr. BLAINE seems to be of our opinion; for if he entertained any hope of running as the Republican candidate for President in 1888, he would be very far from initiating a war with the ARTHUR Republicans, or with the "Mugwumps," or with any other faction of his party.

There are always some silly partisans ready to swear, after the defeat of their favorite for the office which, howsoever, that they will support him for the next term of that office; but usually such enthusiasm ceases out of the belligerent host long before the time comes for him to make good his pledge. Mr. BLAINE is too wise a man to indulge hopes of ever becoming President of the United States, and it is therefore possible that, egged on by GAIL HAMILTON and his ambitious wife, he may propose the punishment of the "traitors" in the Republican party, whose indifference as to his fate last fall led to his disastrous defeat.

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